

NADFAS AGM 2010
CE Presentation – Priorities for 2010

Slide One: Priorities for 2010

Good afternoon

Slide Two: Priorities for 2010: Outline

Our National Chairman has outlined in her report, the progress we've made particularly relating to 2009;

and I now wish to explain what is included in our 2010 business plan, especially the projects that we've identified, and which are developed in addition to our routine work.

Slide Three: Key Themes for 2010

We see here the three broad themes into which the priority projects fall. We continue with a theme of communication;

We include further development of membership and related services and continue with means to gain recognition.

Slide Four: Communications

IT System: This May we launch the on line access for committees to our new database. We are phasing the launch of services to ensure that we all get used to the new passwords and accessing the information. Right now the system is in the hands of the volunteers who kindly offered to test it and it is scheduled to become available to all Societies at the end of the month; but this will very much depend on user feedback. The communications department will announce when it is fully ready for general use. I would urge all Societies to make use of the system as it is designed to help us streamline your committee work and make communication easier and faster. In fact I am extremely encouraged that over 90 of our Societies have already said that they want to use the system straight away.

Web Development: The integration of our new database presented an opportunity to redesign the current navigation of our web site slightly and so some of the page layouts have been changed. Many have suggested that the site could be invigorated with improved design and content. Therefore we are consulting with our web designers about further enhancements this year.

Education forum: We have recently designed the planned discussion forum on the web site where members can discuss and post Questions and Answers about equipment. Especially about compatibility concerns for digital equipment. As it will be part of the members section of the web site you can all feel safe visiting and using the forum, so again I would urge you to make use of it when it becomes widely available this month.

Slide Five: IT database: other services

Directory on line: We are very excited about the on line directory of lecturers and have recently made available a working prototype to the Area Co-ordinators for Education. They are putting it through its paces now and will be giving us feedback. Subject to this testing and completion of the full index, we intend to launch this service fully in a month or two.

Here you can see a screen shot of the directory.

I said earlier that we're ensuring users are comfortable with the new system before we add other on line functions. The next planned phases include linking with our volunteering projects and activities, and following your relationships with kindred bodies and heritage partners.

Other aspects will also follow: The option for online submission of your lecturer feedback forms will be established this year. Other tools for Society use will be introduced as we go.

Slide Six: Membership

New Societies: Finding people with what I think is often called 'the right stuff' is key to starting New Societies. I am referring of course to founders.

A recurring worry from recent founders was the level of personal risk over finances in the first few months.

Therefore, this year the board decided to extend the financial support on offer to New Societies with a more comprehensive and flexible package, allowing for support of £1,000 as a grant and a further £1,000 as a capital loan if required.

Anyone coming forward to start a Society should now feel that the appropriate practical support and necessary funding is in place for them.

The two Working Groups: We have established two trustee working groups in 2010. The National Events Working Group will discuss with Area Chairmen in June the possibilities for redesigning what is offered through national events. The National Membership Working Group is developing a proposal to re-launch national membership and this will be the subject of a more comprehensive debate with members in the autumn before a possible launch at the start of 2011.

Vulnerable Societies: In 2010 the Support Team will continue its role of offering hands on support to any vulnerable societies. I would urge any Society concerned about falling numbers, recruitment or committee succession to make contact with their Area Chairman and the Support Team. The team have a stand here today and I hope you have found time to chat with them and discuss their approach, how they work with the Areas and see some of their material.

Slide Seven: Support

Handbook: Members tell us that the NADFAS handbook is a useful resource and this year we undertake a major update. Along with the content we are also looking at format and how to make it as convenient and accessible as possible, for members. The training team has begun work on the updates and revisions.

Finance system: Our finance department will be upgrading their financial accounting package to replace what is now an obsolete system. The Finance Director has identified the software replacement and work on conversion will begin this summer to changeover in the last quarter of the year. It is important to have a robust finance system to ensure careful control of costs and prompt payment of expenses to members or Societies.

Area: The Area Chairmen and Committees offer valuable local support to societies and members. We will work with them to ensure that our new systems provide them with relevant and up to date summary information. Also, the Education Department will shortly be contacting Areas to help bring together members for a discussion forum with the lecturers in November. This is something we felt was worth repeating this year.

House volunteers: I sometimes meet members who ask about arrangements for volunteering at Nadfas House. We have a number of what we call regular volunteers and you may have noticed in a recent Bulletin mailing that we will encourage any further members who are interested to come forward. Please do encourage people to get in touch.

Slide Eight: Recognition

Awareness: We follow on with local awareness this year through continuing to provide badges and plaques etc to volunteers and projects; additionally this year NADFAS aprons for our heritage volunteers. At the same time as the team gets out and about at art in action some of us will be checking the retirement show at Olympia to see if it will be useful to take a stand there in the future.

Press resource: We already have useful press resource and guidance for getting stories into print. We will add to this by including material to help societies seeking publicity for the grants that they award. We know that there are numerous interesting stories that originate from local Societies and Areas. This summer we will be working on means to more effectively gather in these stories from Areas and feed them through as articles for wider reading to the outside world.

Social media: Many kindred bodies and indeed a number of members make use of the free social networks such as face-book and twitter. We are keeping up with what is going on in the wider world with an appropriate level of engagement and have therefore set up both face-book and twitter pages linked from our web site and will use them more over the coming months.

Podcasts: The short films we have shown for the last few AGM's now form a collection of interesting presentations and we intend to make these more readily available to members, possibly on disc. These are a very immediate and persuasive way of delivering a positive message to others, so you may also expect to see more of them being produced.

Finally, The staff and I would like to thank all of you for being very patient as we have concentrated on introducing the new IT system and database. This is an exciting time and it really is all coming together this year as you have just seen. What we have put in place this year will provide a very solid platform on which to deliver a high quality, streamlined service to members in the future.

Thank you.